

Palatka Daily News

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NOTICE TO SUBSCRIBERS.

Subscribers who do not get their paper are requested to call 195. The News wants every person in Palatka to get a paper every day and we will use every effort to see that it is delivered.

CUT OUT THE BLUFF.

At Indianapolis tomorrow the acid test will be applied to the government's threat at organized labor. The government should never have made a threat. It should have laid down a principle and stuck to it. The present situation looks very much as if it is a bluff. The government of the United States ought not to bluff. That's too petty an act for a big nation. The American Republic, one hundred million strong should be large and powerful enough to afford itself the simplicity and sincerity of a quiet and exact statement of the truth.

This should especially be so when it is dealing with a section of its own people, and it should take double pains to keep it so when the section of its own people with whom it is doing business is composed of men who have always inherited hard for wages and have had little chance to learn finesse or diplomacy.

The Government of the United States told the working miners that if they went out on strike last Friday night they would be committing an "unlawful" act. That was probably news to most of them. They were only going to "strike," which they had been taught to regard as one of the most assured legal rights of an American citizen. Their leaders promptly assured them that the Government of the United States was mistaken; that they still had every right to "strike," that the proposed walk-out was not "unlawful."

So a head-on collision impended between the ignorant miners and the august majesty of the American nation represented by its Government. What did the Government do about it? Did it make it perfectly clear in what manner the proposed strike would be "unlawful" and see that the miners knew all about it in plenty of time to shift their position? Or did it wait over and decide that they could not afford to go to law and fight the machinery of justice? Or did it wait until the last day in the afternoon when it was physically impossible to stop the strike and then go out on an expedition—a legal process—by which it hoped to get all labor men—without a man's name of it—of the Miners' Union, "these men of it" in a number, were restrained from going on strike? Or did it wait until the fact that they were not back place soon showed, what should have been obvious in advance, that it was not necessary for it to do anything more. And this use of the forceful and balanced instrument of the "injunction" was a challenge to the conservative labor leaders in other Unions which they were not slow to take up.

It was provocative; it was much too late; it did not touch the striking miners; and it was ludicrously ineffective. Let us consider calmly where we stand. The President of the United States declared on October 25 that the proposed strike would be "unlawful." We had better perhaps remind ourselves of the exact words he used: "The proposed strike is unlawful." A strike under the law is not only unjustifiable, it is unlawful. That is plain enough in all conscience. Well, the miners, under the unwavering leadership of their officers, went straight ahead preparing to do this "unlawful" thing. When the time came—the night of October 31—they did do the "unlawful" thing. And the question still stands unanswered—What is the Government going to do about it?

If nothing is done except serve a mysterious paper on a few officers, which act all Labor leaders bitterly denounce as a revival of an ancient tyranny that must be resisted at all costs, it is perfectly plain that the working miners, who are rough-and-ready reasoners when they take the trouble to reason at all, will at once arrive at the almost irresistible conclusion that the esteemed American Government was "bluffing." It was seeing whether a big, impressive word would not stop a strike.

LAW FOR "REDS" EFFECTUAL.

In the crush of the greater mass of the news relating to industrial and social unrest it has escaped attention, possibly, that New York has just had its first anarchist trial, and has convicted two men by the orderly process of law under the criminal anarchy statute passed after the assassination of President McKinley. The case is interesting, since the two defendants, Finnish editors of a magazine called Class Struggle, were convicted of publishing an article calling for the overthrow of organized government by force and violence. In themselves the two Finns are of slight importance, since they represent the type of the casual irresponsibles, thousands of whom are at large

in New York and elsewhere and are not confined to the recently arrived immigrant groups. But what is important is that New York has a law that has teeth in it and that the Supreme Court justice in his address, when he imposed a sentence of from four to eight years in Sing Sing, set out most clearly why the men were so quickly convicted. For pointing out that their incitement to revolution was only another form of treason he said:

It is just as much treason to issue and promulgate such literature as you men have been found guilty of promulgating as if you had actually organized an army to attack the government of the United States, because you were taking, in this article, the first step. This was not the last step you intended to take. Some one of your group not only believed in that but actually prepared himself to use force by means of arms. This law was enacted to meet a situation which arose when President McKinley was shot down by an individual who said he was impelled by the writings of Emma Goldman. Other weak-minded and impressionable persons might be influenced to do similar acts of violence by such writing as yours."

The Court also notified the men convicted that they would be deported after they had finished serving their sentence in order that the country of which they did not desire to become citizens should be rid of their presence. So far so good; but with Emma Goldman still defying the courts of the country, it is plain that this conviction in New York did not come any too soon. It is about time the unnaturalized and naturalized "Reds" learned that they cannot forever escape their just due.

FIXING PRICE OF PRODUCTS.

At a meeting of the sugar producers of Louisiana yesterday a price of 17 cents per pound for unclarified sugar and 18 cents for the granulated product was decided on by the growers, subject to the approval of the Attorney General.

Those of us who do not stop to view the proposal of the growers to fix this price might be disposed to emit several yowls. But isn't this a step in the right direction? Isn't it a thing that we here in Florida should have been doing for years?

Heretofore the producer has asked the consumer what he would be willing to pay, the answer coming through the middlemen, where it went through several evolutions. When it arrived at the producer's ear it was always at the minimum price.

But these conditions are changing. Florida orange growers and vegetable growers know that the north east and even the west need their products. The growers are entitled to a fair profit. They should fix a price that will bring them a profit and promulgate that price to the buyers.

IF COAL STRIKE CONTINUES.

If the strike in the coal mine continues and there is a serious shortage in coal what will result? It seems to us that it will mean a fatal blow at labor, organized and unorganized, all over the country, especially where labor is in the least, in the industrial centers.

Already railroads are annulling trains. More will follow and thousands of railroad men will be thrown out of employment. Factories will close their doors, and it is estimated that if the miners' strike continues three months ninety per cent of the organized and unorganized labor of the United States will be idle.

That is something to ponder over.

Tampa is enjoying another strike of cigarmakers. This time it was on account of the weather.

Old John Barleycorn has been doing some tall campaigning in at least three states.

Mexico is talking strike now. The only walk out possible in Mexico will be that of bandits, thieves and half-breed soldiers. Nobody else is at work.

With cotton and silk both bringing record prices and everybody refusing to cut the grass we are becoming alarmed.

Florida is now in the full tide of prosperity. They are singing glad hosannas down the peninsula and we should be able to at least join in a faint treble up here.

We can see no reason why the orange pickers shouldn't get ten cents per box for picking fruit except that the growers are not able to tack this extra charge on the sale price. That's where the man up country who makes all our prices, going and coming, has an advantage.

Operation of the coal mines by the government, which would set a precedent certain to be attended by unpleasantness. It is hardly probable that such action as proposed by Representative Burke, from the Pittsburgh district, will be adopted, at least for the present.

Boasting is not so much of an art after all. It takes much in the thing boasted. If we have faith in Palatka and its opportunities we should boast them. If we haven't we might as well put creases in our tent and hit the road.

Attorney General Palmer is spoken of in dispatches as a possible democratic nominee for President. Mr. Palmer's rise has been rapid but we are inclined to believe that his arbitrary stand in the present labor crisis will not tend to increase his chances of election, even if nominated.

Peisacola is mad, Jacksonville is indifferent, Tampa looks hopeful and Miami is silent, all on account of the decision of the Florida Purchase commission favoring four fairs. We always condemned the wet blankets in any town, county or state, but we predict, in this instance that the four fair plan will never be carried out.

We didn't know when Editor Russell tossed the mantle over to us that he had in view such plutocratic pursuits as real estate in Crescent City. If we had known we would have made jest. But the wily Senator knew what he was doing. Crescent City is fairly bulging, needs more room, more roof-trees and before long will want to be boss of her own county.

If Putnam county has no other exhibit at the state fair than the products displayed here this week by the Girls' Canning and Poultry clubs it will be well worth seeing and will no doubt bring back some of the bacon.

There is some sugar in town. Come around to the News office and we'll tip you off—if you're in good standing.

GERMANY VIEWS PRESENT PEACE AS A MOCKERY

YEAR OF AUGHT BUT PEACE

FOLLOWING SIGNING OF THE ARMISTICE—RUMORS THAT MONARCHISTS WILL YET OVERTHROW THE GOVERNMENT—WANTS TERMS OF PEACE LIGHTENED.

By Carl D. Groat,
(United Press Staff Correspondent.)
BERLIN, Nov. 7.—One year of peace!

A bitter mockery, says Germany today on the anniversary of the great war's end.

It has been a year of 'ought but peace for her.

And, she looks out into the uncertain vista of the future with misgiving. She fears that it is the old cry of peace! peace! when there is no peace. She shrinks before the realities. For they spoil for her, perhaps, a further plunge into the chasm of moral, physical, economic disintegration which has marked the Teuton course.

Conclusion of one year of peace found the nation today uncomfortably close to national bankruptcy. It found her with a laboring class, unchanged from the grim of the past, now unwilling to work—and in many cases unable for want of the raw materials. It found her with a government which despite good intentions and hard efforts has been unable to progress materially. And, too, it found her with internal strife, with political haulings and pullings, with strivings after monarchy and with strivings after proletarian dictatorship, in short, with a confusion and a moral breakdown which threatens before the winter dies to flame out in new civil upheavals with possible bloodshed or with further industrial stagnation.

Pendulum Swings Back.

The pendulum here has swung from the redism of last November revolution to more moderation, it is true. And, there have been signs that the ultra-conservatism of the Pan-Germans would sweep back into power. The air is filled with rumors of putsches.

One side says, "The monarchists will overthrow the government, and put a Hindenburg or even a Hohenzollern in power." The other says, "The Spartacists plan trouble. They will bathe the land in blood again to establish their rule of the proletariat."

And both sides speak with some degree of truth. For certain it is that the extreme right and the extreme left are bent on establishing a new order of things, while the present Liebert-Bauer - Mueller government, formed of majority socialists, centrists and democrats, banks on Noske and his iron guards to keep Germany in order.

Aside from Moske and his guards, Germany has little to bank on. She only prays and hopes with a sort of blind hope that the spring will bring her a new life.

Dread Coming Winter.

"If we can only get through the winter" is the prayer on every side. For the poor, confronted with coal shortage—cold homes and still restricted rations—it is a prayer that something will come to make a new era. For the politicians in power, it is a hope that he can stave off political ruin and perhaps the disruption of his country. For the business man it is the thought that if his work isn't paralyzed or ruined this winter, help may come in the spring.

And everywhere those in power are hoping against hope that an unfriendly outer world will finally take the German view that purely as a matter of good business for the whole world's security, financial aid will be extended whereby Germany can drive off the specters of unemployment, hunger, social unrest, unwillingness to labor, and of general apathy.

The government rests on a very unstable basis. German industry is badly shackled for want of raw ma-

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materials. And German labor is sullen and lazy, discontented with things as they are, none too well nourished, and unwilling to work under old conditions. It demands, and is obtaining more and more a say in how its own destiny shall be ordered.

The dry is for more socialization. The moderate parties want this brought about gradually; the radicals, abruptly; and the conservatives not at all.

Germany's play from now on will be to obtain a lightening of her peace terms through the league of nations. She has launched a campaign for that and will carry it on continuously. She maintains that, with a republic, and a new deal all around, she is entitled to more consideration than the treaty gives her.

Her leaders are doing their utmost to squelch the Pan-Germans, and at the same time to curb the reds. They seek to present Germany to the world as a new nation with new ideas.

She is a new nation—but one sunk in a morass.

A morass of moral decay! A morass of financial decrepitude! A morass of industrial and political uncertainty.

And, in this state of affairs, Germany consequently views the peace anniversary dubiously and says that for her, at least, peace to date has been but a bitter mockery.

Coney as a Venice.

Coming up toward Sandy Hook on a perfectly placid sea we were blessed with just that amount of haze which turned Coney Island into Venice. Arthur E. Shipley writes in Scribner's Magazine. The sea was an Adriatic lagoon; we might have left Trieste overnight! The same merciful mist changed the clear-cut outlines of the skyscrapers into Turner's pictures and the Boy and the Poet became ecstatic with the ecstasy of youth.

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